

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 DLOS-09 /096 W  
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R 221456Z FEB 78  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 305  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 501

CAIRO PASS US DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, IS, EG, XF  
SUBJ: SADAT'S MINIMUM: BEGIN'S MAXIMUM

SUMMARY: "JERUSALEM POST" EDITOR FRENKEL DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT  
BEGIN WILL NOT MEET SADAT'S MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PEACE  
AGREEMENT. SEES CARTER-BEGIN MEETING AS ALL-IMPORTANT.  
BELIEVES GOI MADE MAJOR ERROR IN STARTING NEW SINAI SETTLE-  
MENTS. OPPOSITION ATTACKS ON BEGIN WILL INCREASE.

1. IN FEBRUARY 21 CONVERSATION "JERUSALEM POST" EDITOR  
ERWIN FRENKEL REPEATEDLY ASKED IF SADAT WOULD EVENTUALLY  
AGREE TO BILATERAL DEAL ON SINAI SHOULD NO AGREEMENT PROVE  
POSSIBLE ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. BASED ON WHAT WE  
KNOW TO DATE, I SAID SADAT INSISTING THAT HUSSEIN AND  
PALESTINIANS ENTER NEGOTIATIONS AND THIS IN TURN REQUIRED  
MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON WEST BANK/PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

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2. IN DISCUSSING LATTER, FRENKEL SAID MOST BEGIN COULD DO  
WOULD BE TO DEFER DECISION ON SOVEREIGNTY UNTIL HE WAS NO  
LONGER IN OFFICE (IN ESSENCE, BEGIN WOULD NOT GO BEYOND  
HIS LIMITED SELF-RULE PROPOSAL FOR WEST BANK). BEGIN INCAPABLE,  
HE BELIEVED, ADOPTING POSITION WHICH WOULD VIOLATE BASIC  
BELIEFS HE HAS HELD THROUGHOUT HIS ADULT LIFE.

3. FRENKEL SEES CARTER-BEGIN MEETING AS MAKE OR BREAK POINT IN CURRENT NEGOTIATING PROCESS. WHEN PRESSED AS TO WHAT PRESIDENT COULD REALISTICALLY EXPECT TO ACCOMPLISH IF BEGIN'S ULTIMATE POSITION WAS AS FRENKEL DESCRIBED IT, FRENKEL WAS PESSIMISTIC. NEVERTHELESS, HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT EFFORT BE MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

4. GOI HAD COMMITTED MAJOR ERROR IN LAUNCHING NEW SINAI SETTLEMENTS. THIS HAD CAUSED BEGIN-SADAT RIFT AND HAD ENABLED EGYPT AND US TO SIEZE ON SETTLEMENTS ISSUE, WHERE ISRAEL VULNERABLE BEFORE US AND WORLD OPINION, RATHER THAN HAVE BATTLE FOUGHT ON SECURITY GROUNDS.

5. IF BEGIN WERE TO REFUSE TO MODIFY HIS POSITION ON WEST BANK, PALESTINIANS AND SETTLEMENTS, HE COULD EVENTUALLY FACE SERIOUS OPPOSITION FROM THE LEFT. ATTACKS BY PERES, RABIN AND OTHER LABOR PARTY LEADERS COULD BE EXPECTED TO ACCELERATE. AT PRESENT, HE HAD THE CAPACITY TO RALLY SOLID PUBLIC SUPPORT IN THE FACE OF ALLEGED EGYPTIAN AND US "PRESSURE."

6. WHEN ASKED FOR HIS OPINION AS TO HOW CURRENT CABINET DEBATE ON SETTLEMENTS WOULD TURN OUT, FRENKEL SAID FRANKLY HE DID NOT KNOW. HE COMPLAINED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN WHERE KEY MINISTERS STOOD ON SEVERAL IMPORTANT ISSUES. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CITED RUMOR TO EFFECT THAT DAYAN WAS OPPOSED TO BEGIN'S SWEEPING SOVEREIGNTY OFFER ON SINAI AND WAS QUIETLY CONFIDENTIAL

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TRYING TO UNDERMINE PROPOSAL. FRENKEL STRESSED THIS WAS ONLY A RUMOR AND HE COULD NOT CONFIRM ITS ACCURACY.

7. COMMENT: FRENKEL AND THE "POST" ARE LIBERAL AND MINIMALISTS. HE IS DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT BEGIN THE STATESMAN WILL BE LIMITED BY BEGIN THE IDEOLOGUE TO THE EXTENT THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE SADAT INITIATIVE COULD WELL BE LOST.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE PLANS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PEPR, IS, EG, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR), (BEGIN, MENAHEM)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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